

**THE URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES MULTIDISCIPLINARY MAJOR
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE:
A HISTORY 1970 – 1989**

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A. INTRODUCTION

The Urban and Regional Studies Multidisciplinary major was developed within the Department of Geography, University of Lethbridge, and was coordinated by Professor George Zieber from 1971 until 1989, when he retired. Thereafter, it was coordinated by others in the department. It is the longest-standing multidisciplinary major at the University, a highly successful program, and has been a model for the development of similar programs. The major has played a very important role in training students to become urban and regional planners, many of whom are practicing as such within Alberta. Graduates also have been able to fill positions in a variety of other urban and regional related fields, as well as to go on to graduate studies in areas such as planning, architecture and law. Some of these students received prestigious graduate scholarships and also recognition for outstanding academic work.

The Urban and Regional Studies Multidisciplinary major was somewhat unique in that few universities in Canada offered a planning or planning-related program at the undergraduate level. Moreover, it provided majors not only with a Canadian and international perspective on the nature and problems of planning cities and regions but also with a specifically Western Canadian one.

The idea of the major was brought to the Department by Professor Elbert Miller from Western Washington University, when George Zieber recruited him in 1968. In 1970, while Zieber was on leave, Miller selected courses as a core for the major from four departments: Geography, Economics, Political Science, and Sociology. A fifth list included primarily individual courses from other departments and were ones chosen to provide more breadth to the major.

In 1971, George Zieber was asked to take over the major because of his specialization in Urban Geography and in Planning in his doctorate degree. Throughout the span of 19 years that he served as Coordinator, he carried sole responsibility for its administration, direction, and development. Student interest in the program increased quickly. During some of those years, the number of majors enrolled was in the same range as those enrolled in large departments such as Chemistry, Economics, and Sociology. Zieber believes that one of the main reasons for the success of the program was the commitment to give thorough and consistent counseling and guidance to the majors, as well as to work closely with them during their individual assignments and group projects.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES AS COORDINATOR

1. Program Sheets and Counseling Students

From the very beginning, a three page student handout was prepared. It contained one sheet describing the nature and requirements of the major. Another two pages listed the core courses under the four departments as well as the additional ones under other departments. From these lists students chose courses to design their individual curriculum. In essence, there was little structure to these early programs.

The handout stated that students should select their courses to have a minimum of fifteen courses for this major with a concentration in one of the four major disciplines that constituted the core of this program at that time, in order to obtain adequate depth. Moreover, students were instructed to include as part of the fifteen courses at least two courses in techniques of studying urban and regional areas, out of a list of sixteen from various departments. Independent study courses that pertained to the major could also be included.

Students entering the program were assisted by the Coordinator in the choice of their personal program based on their interests. The Proposed Curriculum was then signed by the Coordinator and submitted to the Dean of Arts and Science at least three semesters (15 semester courses) prior to the date of qualification for the degree. Students were informed that they should consult with the Coordinator at the beginning of each semester to have their program checked, updated, and initialed. At the same time they were reminded of the necessity to complete the introductory or prerequisite courses before proceeding to the more advanced ones. This regular checking of the students' programs was highly important to assure that all requirements would be met in order to graduate.

There was also the on-going task of informing the university students about the existence of the major and answering questions about the nature of the program and its requirements. Correspondence was necessary to respond to enquiries about the major from outside the university.

2. Development of the Program

To keep the program up-to-date and improve it, so it would best meet the needs of the students, there was need to constantly evaluate it both on an annual and a longer term basis. Between 1970 and 1989 approximately 90 courses from some 15 departments were a part of this major. Usually, once a year the course offerings of the various departments were checked for discontinued courses, or for new ones which could be considered for addition. In this latter situation, contact was made with either the department head or with the instructor of the new course to ascertain content.

In April 1977, a submission was sent to the Studies Committee of Arts and Science as well as to its Planning Committee in May, in which Zieber recommended that the multidisciplinary major in Urban and Regional Studies be approved as a regular Arts and Science major and be listed in the Calendar together with the departmental majors. After review by both committees the recommendation was approved.

In 1982, much time was spent completely revising the Urban and Regional Studies program in accord with the Arts and Science Curriculum Committee's request to establish a required core of courses for each multidisciplinary major. In addition, graduates of the major were contacted in order to obtain feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of the major. They expressed the need for strengthening the planning component. Also, other university

planning programs were examined, particularly the undergraduate major at Waterloo University in Ontario.

The thorough review resulted in the following structure:

- I. **REQUIRED CORE:** This was a list of five categories of courses from which a student chose a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve. The five categories from which a designated minimum number had to be chosen from each one (shown in brackets) were:

- A. Introductory Courses (2)
- B. Urban (1)
- C. Urban Administration (1)
- D. Planning (2)
- E. Research Methodology and Statistics (1)

Following these were the option courses.

- II. **OPTIONS:** These were courses from which a student chose a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven. By now a new category of courses had been introduced within Arts and Science, Selected Topics courses, and these were included as options. They were offered on an irregular basis either by a faculty member or by a qualified professional such as a planner.

Within OPTIONS, four subfields or areas of interest were identified, each with a list of recommended courses:

- A. Urban and Regional Planning, Urban Design
- B. Architecture, Landscape Architecture
- C. Recreation and Parks Planning
- D. Environmental and Resource Planning

- III. **INDEPENDENT STUDY:** Students were required to choose at least one at the 3000 (third year) or 4000 (fourth year) level.

Thus the Urban and Regional Studies major required 20 courses. This revision provided a clearly defined structure including four subfields from which a student could choose a specific area of interest.

Prior to 1982 the Physical Education Department had developed a multidisciplinary major in Recreation and Leisure. Eventually, it decided to include in its major some of the Urban and Regional Studies courses, especially the planning courses. Zieber noted an increasing overlap with our Recreation and Parks Planning subfield and thought that this subfield possibly could be dropped from our major in the future.

In 1986, the need for another evaluation of the entire program became apparent. The Recreation and Parks Planning subfield was dropped and consideration was being given to also drop the Environmental and Resource Planning subfield because of lack of interest. Most students chose the Urban and Regional Planning, Urban Design subfield but there was still some enrollment in Architecture, Landscape Architecture.

The need for a review was communicated to the Associate Dean of Arts and Science, David Atkinson, who asked the Curriculum Committee to strike a subcommittee, of which Zieber was asked to be a member, to review the status of all multidisciplinary majors in the Faculty. By now some new multidisciplinary majors such as Canadian Studies had emerged. Within this sub-committee, Zieber helped to develop a general model for the structure of all multidisciplinary majors. The committee work was completed by early Spring 1988. Within

Urban and Regional studies, the subfield Environmental and Resource Planning was dropped but otherwise there were only minor changes.

3. Informing Students about Employment Opportunities and Graduate Studies

Another responsibility as Coordinator was to advise students and provide information about employment opportunities related to their area of interest as well as about graduate studies. By 1988, Zieber was receiving literature and information from about 60 planning related agencies and from universities across Canada, the United States and even abroad. Linked to this responsibility was the on-going task of writing letters of reference for graduates of the program.

From about 1985 and thereafter, each Spring, representatives from the Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary came to Lethbridge to present their graduate programs to the Urban and Regional Studies students. The Coordinator's responsibilities here were to establish the date, to inform the students, and to make the additional arrangements for the event.

4. Independent Studies

Independent Studies were another key component of Urban and Regional Studies. Such a course was equivalent to a semester course and involved doing either library or field research and a final paper under the supervision of a professor.

These courses were offered at different levels, 2000, 3000 or 4000, and reflected different degrees of challenge. A student's choice depended somewhat on year of study, but also upon their preparedness to do such a study. Near the early beginnings of this major, the students could choose to include an independent study course. However, by 1974-75, students were required to include one in their program. By 1983 students could take up to five to count for degree credit and could select one as early as the second semester and as late as the last.

Zieber strongly favored the increase in the number of independent studies students could count for credit. These courses are like small theses which equip students with very valuable research experience and skills that are a great asset for entry into graduate studies and a planning related career. Almost all majors chose to do planning independent studies involving field work in order to gain the practical planning experience. Usually Zieber was the only professor teaching regular planning courses and therefore students asked him to supervise them. For example, during the two regular semesters and three summer sessions of 1987, he had fourteen students under his wing doing such independent planning projects.

5. Transfer Students and Assistance Given for Other University Programs

When transfer students from other Universities and from Community Colleges wished to enroll in Urban and Regional Studies, the Coordinator had to evaluate their transfer courses particularly the geography and planning-related ones. This task involved evaluating the content of each course through information supplied by the students or obtained from the institutions themselves.

From time to time, Zieber was called upon to provide assistance or advice for other university programs. For example, in 1981, a request was received from Lethbridge Community College to consider the possibility and merit of establishing a joint College – University "Resource Planning Program." Following study of the proposal, he submitted recommendations to Vice-President Owen Holmes concerning the feasibility of such a joint program. The final decision was to not go ahead with the proposal. The following year, 1982, Zieber was asked to

provide input for the “Provincial Government Studies Program” to be established under Management Arts at the University of Lethbridge.

C. ATTEMPTS TO UPGRADE URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES TO A PLANNING MAJOR

On February 16, 1976, the Department of Geography submitted to Ian Newbould, Chairman, Arts and Science Planning Committee, its five year plan. Included in that plan was reference to the increasing growth in Urban and Regional Studies and to the fact that most of the majors intended to pursue a career in some area of planning. Also, there was an increasing need for people trained in planning. The submission pointed out that within Geography the University already had a basic program somewhat similar to the undergraduate planning program at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, which was the only one such program in Canada sanctioned by the Canadian Institute of Town Planners. Therefore, the plan urged the addition of planning courses taught by a new faculty member trained in planning as well as by a local planning professional as a sessional lecturer. In the Fall of 1976, a proposal for an Urban and Regional Planning major was submitted to and reviewed by the Arts and Science Advisory Committee. However, no concrete results ensued.

During 1979, another evaluation of Urban and Regional Studies was conducted. In particular, it involved a detailed comparison of the program within the Department of Geography with the four-year undergraduate planning major at the University of Waterloo. The results of this study revealed that our program compared favorably with the core of its major. However, there definitely was need for more staff and courses in planning. On November 13, 1979, Zieber sent a submission entitled “Proposal for the Establishment of a Major in Urban and Regional Planning” to Professor G. Mann, Associate Dean of Social Sciences (within Arts and Science) with a recommendation for upgrading Urban and Regional Studies to a planning major. Also recommended was the addition of at least one full-time faculty member trained in planning and the use of sessional lecturers to offer additional planning courses. Then in December 1979, Zieber made an oral presentation to the Academic Advisory Committee, proposing the establishment of a major in Urban and Regional Planning. Among other things, the Committee advised that an external examiner be brought in to review the proposal.

On January 28, 1980, a letter was sent to Dr. Brahm Wiesman, Director, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia. He was asked if someone would consider coming to Lethbridge to evaluate the proposal for the expansion of the Urban and Regional Studies program to an undergraduate Urban and Regional Planning major. Dr. Wiesman accepted, came on February 21, and spent several days doing the evaluation. His comments about the existing program were very positive. However, he did recommend the addition of some courses already offered by various University departments, as well as the addition of three new faculty members in planning and 12 to 15 new courses.

On March 19, 1981, Professor C.B. Beaty, Chairman, Department of Geography sent a memo to the Dean of Arts and Science, Dr. A. Cassis, concerning future developments in Geography. Among various needs, he pointed out that with the addition of three or four new faculty members with expertise in planning, the Department would be in a position to offer a major program in planning.

In the Fall of 1986, approval was given by the Dean of Arts and Science to hire a full-time staff member to teach planning courses. Zieber determined the two courses the new staff

member would teach for the Spring 1987 semester and took the necessary steps to have them approved by Arts and Science Council. Following receipt of applications, two candidates, Dr. Bruce Prior and Mr. Alan MacPherson, a doctoral candidate, were interviewed. Unfortunately, late in December both declined the position. However, Zieber was able to find two local planners to teach the already scheduled courses but at a different time, the late afternoon or the evening. Also, all students enrolled in each of the two courses had to be contacted to notify them of the date and time changes.

D. STRENGTHENING THE PLANNING COMPONENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES

1. Individual Guest Lectures Presented by Planning and Planning-Related Personnel

Throughout its history between 1970 and 1989, the Urban and Regional Studies Multidisciplinary major underwent constant evaluation and change in order to keep it up-to-date and relevant to the needs of the students enrolled. Some of the steps taken to strengthen it, especially the planning component, are described in this section.

In order to expose the students to planning personnel other than himself and to give them a better perspective of the multifaceted nature of planning, Zieber arranged for staff from various planning or planning-related agencies such as the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission, the City of Lethbridge Planning Board, and the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design, to come and speak to the students on a great variety of planning topics as well as to answer questions. A list of invited speakers and topics covered in his two regular planning courses, Urban and Regional Analysis and Urban Planning, between 1971 and 1989, are listed as follows. Several are graduates of Urban and Regional Studies.

- Robert McKay – Public Participation in Planning
 - Tom Golden – Annexation
 - Karen Boyer – Research Techniques and Data Collection
 - George Gemmer – Recreational Planning
 - William (Bill) Brown – Parks, Reserves, and Open Space
 - Robert McKay – Downtown Revitalization
 - Michael Burla – Planning in Small Towns – Granum Industrial District
 - George Gemmer – Recreation and Recreational Facilities in Lethbridge
 - William Brown – River Valley Development
 - Gary Weikum – Downtown Redevelopment
 - Code Clements – Recreational Planning in Small Towns
 - Mikhael Cooper – Citizen Participation in Planning
 - Dave Cronkhite – Enabling Legislation in Alberta
 - George Gemmer – Recreational Planning in Lethbridge
 - Code Clements – Conflicts Between Outdoor Recreation and Other Land Uses
 - Ted Nicholson – Planning in Small Communities
 - Tracy Nemeth – Planning Parks
 - William Brown – Urban Parks Project
 - Code Clements – Recreational Planning
 - George Gemmer – Planning Sports Facilities
 - Austin Lawrence – (no record of topic)
 - Mr. Mitchell (retired architect) – Non-Facility Recreation
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- Gary Weikum – Considerations in Designing Galt Gardens
- Nicholas Paladino – Development Officer and Development Applications
- Felix Michna – Joint Municipal Plans
- Walter Jamieson (PhD – Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary) – Heritage Planning
- Peter Hanhart (Developer of Ridgewood Heights) – Land Development from Raw Land to Subdivision Stage

2. Regular and Sessional Lecture Courses

Within the Urban and Regional Studies major, the first planning course taught by Zieber was Urban and Regional Analysis. It was offered at the third year level in the Fall of 1971. This course covered the history of planned urban and regional development from the very early beginnings on through to the significant planning concepts and experiences of the 20th Century. In 1973, a second planning course was added at the fourth year level, Urban Planning. Each of these two courses included not only lectures but also planning projects done by groups of three or four students. The projects involved field research and a final report worth up to 50 percent. Sometimes the students were required to present their report to the class in both oral and visual form. In the early eighties another regular planning course was introduced, Rural and Urban Fringe. It was a very welcome addition and was taught by Professor M. Sundstrom, Department of Geography.

On February 16, 1976, the Department stated in a report to the Arts and Science Council Planning Committee that if it was impossible to strengthen the planning component of the Urban and Regional Studies program by the addition of a faculty member, it would recommend investigating the use of sessional lecturers to teach planning courses. Finally, in 1980, approval was given and finances were made available by the Arts and Science Dean, to add Selected Topics courses through the use of local planners as sessional lecturers. This use of local planners to teach such planning courses continued until Zieber's retirement in 1989 and beyond. Although these courses were greatly appreciated, the dire need still existed for permanent staff and regular courses. The following are examples of a few of the early Selected Topics courses taught.

- Spring 1981, Geography 4004 – Contemporary Issues in Planning – Mrs. Karen Boyer, MA, Planner, Oldman River Regional Planning Commission.
- Spring 1983, Geography 3004 – Land Use Planning Law – Mr. Tom Little, BA, LLB, Lawyer with the law firm Peterson and Purvis (Tom Little is a graduate of Urban and Regional Studies).
- Spring 1984, Geography 4004 – Issues in Urbanization and Planning – Mr. Felix Michna, MA, Head, Planning and Development, City of Lethbridge.

It was very gratifying to have some of the graduates of this major return as qualified planners or other professionals to contribute to this program as guest speakers and as sessional lecturers to teach Selected Topic courses.

On August 27, 1986, Frank Jankunis, Geography Chairman, sent a letter to the Dean of Arts and Science, requesting the addition of three new courses. They were: Introduction to Planning (Geography 2535), Seminar and Practicum in Land Use Planning (Geography 4235), and Research Methods in Urban and Regional Planning (Geography 4233). The first two courses were approved and were to be taught in the Spring Semester 1987, by a new appointee to the department. About this time, Geography was granted permission to add another faculty member in planning. However, as previously mentioned, the two potential candidates both declined the

position before the end of the year. Fortunately, the department was able to find two local planners to teach each of the two scheduled courses.

In a letter to the Faculty Dean, dated February 18, 1987, Chairman Frank Jankunis again made a request for courses which Zieber deemed necessary to advance the major. They included more courses in Selected Topics in Urban and Regional Planning (Geography 3006, 4006), Principles of Urban Design (Geography 3237), and the same course previously requested in the August 27, 1986 letter to the Dean but then not approved, Research Methods in Urban and Regional Planning (Geography 4233). These courses were approved and local planners taught them.

Throughout the history of this program, attempts to get approval for more regular planning courses taught by permanent staff within the department presented an ongoing challenge. The addition of more planning staff and courses depended on obtaining the approval and finances from the University, the availability of adequate library resources, as well as the availability of personnel qualified in planning.

3. Exposing Students to Planning Literature

Another step which helped to strengthen the planning component within the Urban and Regional Studies Multidisciplinary major was to expose students to the planning literature. This was done primarily within the Urban Planning course, and more so during the later years of Zieber's instructing. The literature included articles from journals and books such as Community Planning, City Magazine, Community Planning Association of Canada, Community Planning Review, Plan Canada, Landscape Architecture, A Citizen's Guide to City Politics, The City Book, Planning the Canadian Environment and Planning Neighborhood Space With People, and others.

The planning articles were grouped under 12 categories which gave the students a perspective of the multi-faceted nature of planning. They were:

- Planning
- Planners
- Developers and the Development Industry
- Land Development and Cost of Urban Land
- Citizens Participation in Planning
- Suburbs
- Gentrification
- Planning Neighborhoods
- Zoning
- Traffic Control-Pedestrian Safety
- Social Planning
- Parks and Playgrounds

The number of articles within all of the above categories corresponded to the number of students in the class, each student choosing a different article. Thus all the articles and categories would be covered. Then each student was required to orally present to the class a summary of the article. To facilitate the presentation each student was encouraged to use a variety of visual materials and media. Following the presentation there was a class question period. Finally, a three or four page summary was handed in to the instructor. Students were graded on this assignment.

The value of this exercise was not only to expose the students to the planning literature but also to give them practice in doing a public presentation, in illustrating it in the most effective way, and also in answering questions related to the topic. All of these skills were ones necessary once they entered the field of planning.

4. Student Visits to the Local Planning Commission Office

In order to help students learn about planning and the work that planners do, they were taken for an afternoon visit to the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission offices. Here they could observe, ask questions, and hear brief presentations by different planners and technicians on different aspects of planning. Additionally, these visits were significant in establishing personal contacts for needed course related planning information and materials, as well as for possibilities of employment upon graduation. Indeed, some did find positions here as well as with the City of Lethbridge Planning Department.

5. Student Field Projects

Field research projects were a very important part of Zieber's planning courses throughout the years. A key objective for students doing them, usually in groups of three or four, was to enable them to apply their theoretical knowledge and learned skills in the practical situations of real life planning. Skills included ones such as land use mapping, doing sketching, using research techniques such as designing questionnaires, conducting interviews, and obtaining information from documents and local planners. Added to this was the effective presentation of the results in visual, oral, and written report format. A final significant factor was that of the students learning to work together as a team.

Prior to beginning some of the field projects, local planners were asked what types of projects could be of help to them. Consequently, when such projects were completed they were given to the planners who appreciated some of the data and information obtained and the recommendations made by the student teams.

The first project done in 1971 as part of the Urban and Regional Analysis course was a study of the Downtown Urban Redevelopment Area. This was the area west of the old traditional downtown approximately west of Fourth and Fifth Streets South. Here were located wholesale and light industrial establishments such as a dairy, a laundry, and a used car lot, as well as several old hotels and a considerable number of old single story cottages dating back to the early years of Lethbridge.

With the assistance of the students, a questionnaire was prepared and each team was assigned to a certain segment of this area. The aim was to determine the demographic characteristics of the people living there, the desirable and undesirable qualities of living in the area, and the people's choice of residential area and accommodation preference following redevelopment. The planners were grateful to receive this information for their redevelopment plan.

A list of the planning projects complete by the students from 1971 to 1988 is as follows:

FIELD PROJECTS COMPLETED BY STUDENT TEAMS IN THE TWO PLANNING COURSES: 1971-1988

Geography 3235: URBAN AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS		Geography 4230: URBAN PLANNING	
Semester and Year	Field Projects	Semester and Year	Field Projects
Fall 1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown Urban Redevelopment Area 	Spring 1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lethbridge Residents' Perception of the City Urban Redevelopment Area Environmental Survey
Spring 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-family Residences 	Spring 1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corner Grocery Stores
Spring 1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Land Use: Single and Multi-family – Phases 1 and 2 	Summer (I) 1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study of Corner Grocery Stores An Environmental Survey
Spring 1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Neighborhood Study 	Fall 1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lethbridge Residents' Perception of the City Land Use and Environmental Assessment of Different Areas of Lethbridge
Fall 1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for Coalhurst 	Fall 1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Study of Various Lethbridge Neighborhoods
Fall 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhood Recreational Land Use and Facilities 	Spring 1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Land Use
Spring 1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown Land Use Mapping and Lethbridge Central Business District Study 	Spring 1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Study of the Trends in the Use of Indoor Recreational Facilities in Lethbridge A Downtown Mall London Road Neighborhood Association Design and Planning of Watson Centre for Allen Watson School Site. A Proposal for the Development of the River Valley. Planning Lethbridge Transit. Gilbert Patterson as a Community School.
Spring 1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Study of Lethbridge Neighborhoods 	Spring 1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre Site 4 Development River Bottom Parks Project Varsity Village: A Critical Analysis Henderson Lake Recreation An Evaluation of Lethbridge's Thoroughfare and Road System and Recommendations for Improvement. Galt Gardens Project An analysis and Critical Evaluation of the Planning Needs of Hardieville Railway Relocation

Geography 3235: URBAN AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS		Geography 4230: URBAN PLANNING	
Semester and Year	Field Projects	Semester and Year	Field Projects
Spring 1985	(Coordinator on academic leave)	Spring 1988	• Lethbridge Neighborhoods Study
Spring 1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Critical Analysis of Downtown Lethbridge Phase II, Sub Area 1. • A Redevelopment of Galt Gardens: Team A, Team B. • Hardieville: A Neighborhood Study • Wheelchair Accessibility – A Study of Indian Battle Park • Westcastle Ski Park Development 1987: A Four Seasons Resort Proposal • Redevelopment and Redesign of the Taber Golf Course • Sixth Street Revitalization Project – Lethbridge • Lethbridge Urban Parks Signage 		

E. CONCLUSIONS

Urban and Regional Studies, the first and longest standing multidisciplinary major at the University of Lethbridge, was developed between 1970 and 1989 into an important and highly viable, successful program. Moreover, it continues to be so to the present. Throughout the years it has attracted a large number of majors who are now serving in many planning related positions throughout Alberta and beyond. It was a program somewhat unique during this period because few universities in Canada offered a planning or planning-related program at the undergraduate level.

During the almost 20 years as Coordinator of this major, a large share of Zieber's academic energy was devoted to its administration, to having input into the lives of many students, and to attempts to develop this multidisciplinary major into a full planning major. Progress toward establishing a major in planning was considerably slower and more difficult than was anticipated and of course resulted in disappointments. However, the opportunity of working with the students as well as with the planners and other planning-related professionals gave him much satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment. The contributions of those professionals, who freely volunteered their time and expertise to speak to the students about the different aspects of planning in class as well as on visits to their offices, was invaluable to the success of the multidisciplinary major. The special topics planning courses which they taught at the university were greatly appreciated.

The many students who were in the Urban and Regional Studies program were always special to Professor George Zieber. He worked them hard. However, he was very pleased with their performance in his courses. At times, they exceeded his expectations. He was proud of their accomplishments and success once they graduated. Many hold positions within the broad area of planning while some have entered other professions such as architecture and law (see Appendix A for a list of the students).

Zieber expresses thanks to several faculty members of the Department of Geography who committed themselves to the responsibility for further development and growth of Urban and Regional Studies. In particular, he is extremely grateful to Professor Ian MacLachlan, who upon Zieber's retirement in 1989, came on staff to replace him and took over as Coordinator of this major. With joint leadership, first from 1989-1995 by MacLachlan and Professor Rod McNaughton, and thereafter by Professor Tom Johnston and Ivan Townshend, the program continued to develop and improve. However, more significant has been the diligent pursuit of and excellent progress made in having the existing major become a planning major with accreditation by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Under the overall direction of Dr. Seamus O'Shea (Vice-President and Provost) and in collaboration with Associate Deans Rene Barendregt and Carl Granzow, Dr. Ivan Townshend initiated a proposal in 2005, for a multidisciplinary major in Rural and Urban Planning and Design consisting of three components: Planning, Architectural Design, and Community and Rural Development. In 2006, MacLachlan resumed his position as Coordinator of Urban and Regional Studies and contributed to further revisions to the program developed by Townshend. The proposal was reviewed externally by Dr. Wayne Caldwell, a planner and part-time faculty member at the University of Guelph, late in 2007, and also on January 25, 2008, by the Campus Alberta Quality Council. On March 6, 2008 it was approved by the Minister of Advanced Education to start September 2009. The program will require at least three new professors in planning, two in design, as well as construction of design studios. However, up to the present the Alberta Government has made no commitment to provide the finances required for the implementation of this new major.

F. A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR, PROFESSOR GEORGE H. ZIEBER

The information for this history of the Urban and Regional Studies Multidisciplinary major from 1970 to 1989 was derived from a number of sources. Upon my retirement in 1989, documents pertaining to the program were left with Professor Ian MacLachlan, Department of Geography, and subsequently he placed them into Archives at the University Library. University Calendars were checked. Also, documents covering my correspondence with Arts and Science personnel and committees were still available. Fortunately, I had all my lecture notes and most of the accompanying records of what had been done in my planning courses throughout the years. Dependence was on my memory as Coordinator of the major. Memories of my work with this major were, on the whole, very positive.

In closing, I thank God for continuing to give me the health and strength in order to complete this history which involved a large number of facts and events. The challenge of trying to piece everything together logically and in an organized way was considerable. However, the task was enjoyable. My aim in this presentation was to record the information as accurately as possible.

George H. Zieber, PhD
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Appendix A: GRADUATES OF URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES 1972-1990

Graduation Date	Last Name	First Name	Degree	Graduation Date	Last Name	First Name	Degree
13 May-1972	Carnell	Michael	BASc (BA)	26 May-1984	De Georgio	Katherine	BASc (BA)
13 May-1972	Christensen	Monte	BASc (BA)	26 May-1984	Higa	John	BASc (BA)
13 May-1972	Lockwood	Robert	BASc (BA)	26 May-1984	Prindle	Kim	BASc (BA)
19 May-1973	Kuhl	George*	BASc (BA)	26 May-1984	Sitz	Sonia	BASc (BA)
19 May-1973	Menard	Thomas	BASc (BA)	26 May-1984	White	Allan	BASc (BA)
11 May-1974	Stott	Arthur	BASc (BA)	25 May-1985	Bullock	Robert	BASc (BA)
24 May-1975	Klapstein	Carol	BASc (BA)	25 May-1985	McMahon	Kelly	BASc (BA)
24 May-1975	Luco	Michael	BASc (BA)	25 May-1985	Ogunnaike	Adedapo	BASc (BA)
15 May-1976	Rokas	Linda	BASc (BA)	25 May-1985	Radway	Glen	BASc (BA)
15 May-1976	Yagos	Daniel	BASc (BA)	24 May-1986	Anderson	Bruce	BASc (BA)
14 May-1977	Barnes	Roger	BASc (BA)	24 May-1986	Schwartzenberg	Stanley	BASc (BA)
14 May-1977	Cusack	Jennifer	BASc (BA)	24 May-1986	Wijdeven	Berry	BASc (BA)
14 May-1977	Little	Thomas	BASc (BA)	23 May-1987	Crawford	David	BASc (BA)
13 May-1978	Hopkins	Shirley	BASc (BA)	23 May-1987	Hunter	Stefanie	BASc (BA)
13 May-1978	Smith	Dorothy	BASc (BA)	23 May-1987	Kelly	Michael	BASc (BA)
13 May-1978	Szarko	Donald	BASc	23 May-1987	Krywolt	Hazel	BASc (BA)
12 May-1979	Burke	Paul	BASc (BA)	28 May-1988	Czarny	Rick	BASc
12 May-1979	Burla	Michael	BASc (BA)	28 May-1988	Eichhorn	Robert	BASc
12 May-1979	Daruda	Gregory	BASc (BA)	28 May-1988	Gaehring	Maureen	BA
12 May-1979	Hanhart	Steve	BASc (BA)	28 May-1988	Greene	Jeffrey	BA
12 May-1979	Painter	Cathy	BASc (BA)	28 May-1988	Hansen	Kelvin	BA
12 May-1979	Sekiya	Brian	BASc (BA)	28 May-1988	Smith	Ross	BASc
10 May-1980	Folarin	Charles	BASc (BA)	27 May-1989	Baugh	Tobi	BA
10 May-1980	LeBlanc	Anne	BASc (BA)	27 May-1989	Chow	Ka Sing	BASc (BA)
10 May-1980	MacDonald	Karen	BASc (BA)	27 May-1989	Nishikawa	Donald	BASc (BA)
16 May-1981	Gjesdal	Barrie	BASc (BA)	27 May-1989	Power	Jane	BA
16 May-1981	O'Brien	Anita	BASc (BA)	27 May-1989	Rothfield	Marcie	BA
16 May-1981	Whitehead	Craig	BASc (BA)	27 May-1989	Tajiri	Machael	BA
15 May-1982	Davis	Morgan	BASc (BA)	27 May-1989	Wilson	Brian	BSc
15 May-1982	Gedrasik	Veronica	BASc (BA)	14 Oct-1989	Waugh	Alfie	BA
15 May-1982	Gibson	Mark	BASc (BA)	26 May-1990	Potrie	Rodney	BASc (BA)
15 May-1982	Kalkan	Wendy	BASc (BA)	26 May-1990	Tamura	Michael	BA
15 May-1982	Mercier	Pierre	BASc (BA)	26 May-1990	Vas	Daniel	BA
15 May-1982	Timmermans	Hans	BASc (BA)				
21 May-1983	Erdos	Katrina	BASc (BA)				
21 May-1983	Manyfingers	Morris	BASc (BA)				

* This student's degree was in Geography, but he also fulfilled all the requirements for an Urban and Regional Studies major.